



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA ADVISORY

## **147th Command Aviation Battalion soldiers and their families being honored Saturday**

The Wisconsin National Guard's 147th Command Aviation Battalion soldiers and their families will be honored during a Freedom Salute Campaign ceremony Saturday [Sept. 11] Company C and D will hold their ceremony at 9 a.m., and the Headquarters Company ceremony will occur at 2 p.m., both at the National Guard Armory, 1954 Pearson Street, Madison.

The Freedom Salute Campaign is a national program started in December to publicly acknowledge Army Guard soldiers and those who supported them during their active duty mobilizations for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

During Saturday's ceremony 205 soldiers of the 147th Battalion will each receive a Defender of Freedom lapel pin, a coin, an encased U.S. flag, and a Defender of Freedom certificate signed by Shultz and Lever. Soldier's spouses will receive a National Guard Team member lapel pin.

The 147th Aviation Battalion mobilized Feb. 2, 2003 and deployed to Kuwait March 23 to support Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. About 160 of the battalion's soldiers returned Sept. 10, 2003, and the remaining 45 came back to Wisconsin Dec. 20, 2003. During their tour of duty in Kuwait the 147th Aviation Battalion supported Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, flying UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter missions both in Kuwait and Iraq.

The Wisconsin Guard still has about 1,450 Guard members from the state serving on active duty. The balance of the Wisconsin Guard — more than 8,300 soldiers and airmen from units in 67 communities across the state — stand ready to provide a wide range of military support in the event of emergencies in Wisconsin or to protect against terrorist threats in the state.

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